

## Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 01-Jan-15 08:50 PM GMT

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL 😊

With another year gone, I thought I would post a retrospective look at some of my favorite images, whilst awaiting the spring of 2015. Like everyone, I sincerely hope that the weather does it's thing at the right time, so we can all catch up with those elusive species that have so far passed us by. For me 2015 has just got to be my year for Marshies & Dukes (fingers crossed I can find them). Going back to the spring of 2014, here are some Orange Tips.



A relatively new species for me is the Heath Fritillary. It is such a wonderful butterfly, I just wish they were more widespread. These were taken just outside Southend.



Kind Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 04-Jan-15 02:22 AM GMT

My first Pearl Bordered Fritillary was well worth the wait. Seen on a lovely spring day at Eyarth Rocks in Wales. I must say it was quite a hike to get on to the plateau where the nature reserve is, but the views are well worth it. Numbers were very low, but it was with great excitement that this one stopped on the path in front of me.

PBF at Eyarth Rocks Butterfly Reserve



A view looking across the reserve (proof that the sun does shine in North Wales).



Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 06-Jan-15 07:02 AM GMT

Cracking Heaths and Pearls Kev 😊 I can't get over how different the Pearl's habitat looks from the one I'm used to at Bentley Wood.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 06-Jan-15 07:57 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. I haven't been to Bentley Wood (yet!), but looking at your reports over time it sounds a cracking location. To get up to Eyarth Rocks we went through some very dense woodland, so much so that it might have been more luck than judgement that we made it on top. I had been expecting to see some Pearls near the trees as opposed to the exposed plateau.

Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 08-Jan-15 03:25 AM GMT

Another favorite butterfly, is the Silver Spotted Skipper. These were photographed during my first visit to Box Hill in Surrey. A great place for Butterflies with a number of other species seen too, including Marbled White & Chalkhill Blue.



My local White Admiral colony was less numerous in 2014, compared to the previous year, but hopefully this will pick up again in 2015. Before that, I'll go searching for larvae, as I am yet to see early stages of White Admiral.



Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by bugboy, 08-Jan-15 04:02 AM GMT

Great Silver Spotted Skippers. I was there taking pics of them at Box Hill this year as well. Never seen them before but made 2 trips specifically to see them. I presume these were taken on that bank next to zigzag road on the east side of 'The Whites'. I bumped into a chap from BC doing a survey for a rare moth, for the life of me I can't remember the name of the moth! Anyway he pointed out some S P Skipper eggs and said that they had recently started managing the rest of the bank with grazing cattle and that the Skippers were already moving into these new areas 😊.

### Re: Kev Ling

by keving, 08-Jan-15 08:03 PM GMT

Thanks for the comments Bugboy.

Yes the skippers were located by the zig zag road, with the Chalkhill blues emerging just a few metres further up from them.

I think the moth you are referring to may be the Straw Belle Moth.

Will certainly look forward to returning there, it was a top location.

Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by bugboy, 09-Jan-15 04:26 AM GMT

Straw Belle, thats the one, thanks kev.

Yes it was my first trip to box hill this year and I have already planned a few visits next year, hopefully catch some spring species. I've read that Dingy and Grizzled are reasonably plentyful there. Fingers crossed thats not old info.

### Re: Kev Ling

by millerd, 09-Jan-15 05:21 AM GMT

Hi Kev - Silver-spotted Skippers are also easy to find on the viewpoint slopes at Box Hill, as well as the less-frequented hillside to the east of them.

Dave

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 09-Jan-15 05:22 PM GMT

Bugboy - I was'nt aware that Box Hill was good for Dingy & Grizzled Skippers. Thanks for the heads up.

Dave - I thought the SSS were confined to the eastern slopes, good to know about the other location too.

Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by bugboy, 10-Jan-15 01:45 AM GMT

Kev, I've only read it somewhere, not seen them so I don't know if it's still a current site for the Dingy and Grizzled. There seem to be a few sites along the south London/Surry borders which I plan to investigate this year.

The Silver Spotted eggs are quite easy to find once you know what you are looking for (as are many things related to butterfly spotting), a couple were pointed out to me then as I walked along a saw loads more.

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 10-Jan-15 06:28 AM GMT

Lovely Silver Spots and White Admiral Kevling 😊 How many months to go now, it feels like ages? 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 11-Jan-15 03:59 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, just three months until the Orange Tips 😊

Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 09-Mar-15 01:44 AM GMT

HOORAY 😊 It's March 8th and I have my first sightings of the year in a sunny Ipswich.

After a very fast flypast over my house yesterday by a Peacock, I was treated to a much more relaxed Small Tortoiseshell at my nearby wood this morning, which was sunning itself on some bracken. Close by another flew by, followed not long after by a Peacock.

I was at Wherstead Wood, close to my home, on the search for White Admiral Hibernaculum. Following some hints by Guy I set out with an open mind but came across one or two very promising possibilities on honeysuckle which was yet to have any new growth. I have attached the images and would welcome some expert opinion.

When I returned home, I enjoyed a Swallowtail, sunning itself on my shed wall.



I'm sorry, I couldn't resist this one. A colorful addition to my outhouse.



Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 06-Apr-15 04:50 PM GMT

I have seen my first Brimstone of the year (2.4.15) and this is the earliest I have seen them. Albeit that I was nearly 100 miles from home in sunny Bedfordshire. Several fresh examples were seen patrolling the hedgerows close to Luton Airport where I stopped for lunch.

Back at home, I have noticed some developments with the Large Whites that pupated under the fascia boards of my house. All of them looked very similar in colour and appearance than when they first pupated 5 months ago, with the exception of my first picture below. I would be interested to hear from anyone that might be able to explain what has happened. It has turned a dark bronze colour and shows no visible signs of parasites. Do some just perish in this stage of development?

This was taken yesterday



This is another example close by (quite a difference)



Kind Regards  
Kev

## Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 11-Apr-15 09:43 PM GMT

A nice lunchtime walk yesterday at a local nature reserve close to the office.

Several Small Tortoiseshell were seen, including five involved in an aerial spiral right around me (wonderful 😊).

Also seen were a Brimstone and three Peacocks.

This is also a reliable site for the first Orange Tips of the year, but they are not quite ready to put in a appearance yet. Managed a photo on my mobile of two Small Tortoiseshell.



Regards Kev

## Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 19-Apr-15 06:14 PM GMT

My travels took me to Middlesex and apart from a stiff breeze at times, what a cracking day of sunshine for Butterflies.

I enjoyed my first Orange Tip sighting of the year, but the flypast was so quick, blink and you would have missed it.

Also seen were Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Green Veined white and the highlight for me, several Holly Blues (my first of the year).

After several failed attempts, a female eventually settled, allowing me to get some photos. Then, with amazing good fortune I observed her laying an egg (I'm not sure what the plant was, possibly dogwood?).





Holly Blue Ovipositing



Egg successfully laid



Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by bugboy, 19-Apr-15 06:48 PM GMT

Great pics of the Holly Blue, still waiting to get close to one this year. Just males teasing and taunting me so far. Agreed it does look like Dogwood she is laying on.

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 20-Apr-15 04:11 AM GMT

Thanks Buggy for your comments. I was sat in one place for a long period and got lucky. I didn't know it was a female until she started doing her thing.

Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 25-Apr-15 02:45 AM GMT

I returned to my local wood near Ipswich today in search of White Admiral Larvae, having seen a couple of likely looking hibernaculam in early March. After drawing a blank on the Honeysuckle I had marked, a dead leaf caught my eye elsewhere and sitting atop was this little fellow.



Earlier in the week, I also came across these Brown Tail Moth larvae



Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Padfield, 25-Apr-15 04:49 AM GMT

Hi Kev. I'm delighted to see your white admiral cat piccies, because I really wasn't convinced by your earlier hibernaculum pictures!! No doubt about this little chap though - so well done!

Once you get your eye in you'll start seeing them everywhere. They fly at a very low density in my local woods but I spot the cats all over the place now. I'm fascinated to see they fly near Ipswich. In my youth they were just moving back into Suffolk and I used to cycle up to Tunstall to see them (I live in Woodbridge).

Guy

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 25-Apr-15 07:38 PM GMT

Thanks Guy. It is nice to see them in my local area, as they were certainly not a species I saw during my youth.

Thanks to the advice on UK Butterflies, I'm certainly honing my detective skills and seeing things I never would have discovered before 😊

Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Neil Freeman, 26-Apr-15 02:45 AM GMT

Hi Kev,

Great photos of the White Admiral cats and also the Holly Blue one in the previous post, great stuff.

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 26-Apr-15 07:33 PM GMT

Thanks Neil 😊

Fortunate piece of timing to see the Holly Blue ovipositing. As for the White Admiral larvae, I can't believe I would spot something the size of a grain of rice in a wood. But it is all about knowing where to look and when I suppose, something I didn't know 12 months ago.

Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 29-Apr-15 01:48 AM GMT

We rescued some Large White Larvae last November before they perished with no food plants. The first one hatched today and was released this afternoon into the Garden whilst it was sunny (6 hours old). After taking a little sustenance on some Bugle, it was off. Managed a couple of photos before it fled.





Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 30-Apr-15 05:02 AM GMT

We are continuing with our study of Large White at home and this morning a further four adults had emerged (2 male/2 female). I managed to secure a single record shot of a pupa in it's last hour before the adult merged.



What follows are some rather poor quality images of an adult emerging (I did not think it just to expose it to a flash). But it gives you an idea, nonetheless. Please stick with me, the photo quality does improve later on 🙄





One of the females released this afternoon after the rain had passed.



One of the males released this afternoon.



Here follows two photos taken of the same male within seconds of each other. What is interesting is the movement of the abdomen between the two, revealing what I assume is the male's genitalia?



Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Maximus, 30-Apr-15 05:35 AM GMT

Nice images of your Large Whites, Kev. It's not always easy to get the best shots 😊😊

**Re: Kev Ling**

by David M, 30-Apr-15 06:29 AM GMT

Interesting shots, Kev. Always great to see a butterfly emerge from its chrysalis.

## Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 01-May-15 06:35 AM GMT

Cracking shots Kev – Large Whites are often tricky especially the open wing shots 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 04-May-15 05:58 PM GMT

Maximus: Thanks for your kind comments. It's better to get a shot, that none at all

David: Thanks also. It is great to see them emerge. Even if I 'm in the habit of missing them by seconds each time 😊

Wurzel: I know what you mean about open wing shots. That's why I resort to getting them when their semi comatosed 😊

Here are some more images of my Large Whites, just prior to and just after hatching. Once again, I turn my back on them for a couple of minutes and they pop out (if you listen carefully you can hear my Muttley curse).

Just prior to hatching;



I nip off to get some breakfast, and this happens;



Released in the garden;



and finally, one female decides it does want to leave us and flies back onto my daughter;



Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by trevor, 05-May-15 02:18 AM GMT

Hi Kev.,

The Orange Tips seem to be more scattered around here this year. But I saw quite a few Males today whilst driving. By chance you'll find some unexpectedly ( that's how I found that Female ) 🤔

Best wishes ,  
TREVOR.

PS. Nice Large Whites.

### Re: Kev Ling

by trevor, 10-May-15 12:33 AM GMT

Hi Kev.,

Yes, that Holly Blue was one of the great moments , made even better as it was unexpected. But they can turn up anywhere, as i'm sure yours did.

All the best,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 12-May-15 02:35 AM GMT

Thanks for previous comments Trevor 😊

The last installment of our Large White breeding follows.

There were a total of 22 caterpillars, of which just three climbed up the walls of the house to pupate. One of those never made it to pupation and of the other two, just one hatched (female).

19 caterpillars were rescued from the wilted Nasturtiums and after fattening up, pupated in our breeding cage. Just one failed to pupate with the other 18 all safely released in early May. Of those 18, 11 were female and 7 male.

There were no parasites visible on the small number that failed to make adulthood.





Regards Kev

### **Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 13-May-15 04:05 AM GMT

After a very barren period with out any Orange Tip sightings, my patience was finally rewarded at my local (Belstead Meadows, Ipswich). After seeing a number of active males, I came to a patch of Garlic Mustard that had good numbers of eggs on show (+15).



Then my first female of the year (one of three seen in total)





Also of note was this Holly Blue that seemed very content to be photographed



With Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Red Admiral, Comma, Green Veined White and Large White also seen, it turned out to be the best day of the spring so far.

Kind Regards  
Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 16-May-15 02:23 AM GMT

The first Orange Tip larvae are hatching in my quiet corner of Ipswich.  
These first instar were seen today.



Having photographed my first female last weekend, I managed a male today preparing to roost.



Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 17-May-15 04:02 PM GMT

Now that the Orange Tips are out in force, I'm getting my fill while they last. Once again I ventured to my local hot spot where I found eggs and larvae last week.

This pair were so focused on themselves, I managed to get close and capture the following images, before a second male joined them at the end.







Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 19-May-15 01:23 AM GMT

Having a fairly urban position at home, we were pleased to welcome our first ever recorded Orange Tip to the garden. Unfortunately I missed it due to work, but Mrs L captured this female in addition to a Holly Blue.





Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by trevor, 19-May-15 02:17 AM GMT

Hi Kev,

Congrats. with the Female Holly Blue, open wings, lovely colour. This species seems to have done well this Spring. I have found that a shot like yours is more likely to be achieved on a blustery day, with cloud and intermittent sunshine. It was these conditions that worked for me.

Keep 'em coming,  
TREVOR

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 19-May-15 06:26 AM GMT

Great shots Kev, especially the OT action shots they're fab 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by bugboy, 20-May-15 05:01 AM GMT

Hi Kev,

Great shots of the Orange action 😊

Re Dukes, the weather forecast for the weekend doesn't look too bad at all and you won't be too late, a lot of the ones I was seeing looked very fresh, especially the 2 females pictured in my PD so I think your chances of getting some good sightings are pretty good. I'm going for another Duke experience on Bison Hill this Saturday, they're my new favourite British butterfly 😊

Buggy

### Re: Kev Ling

by Willow, 21-May-15 05:41 AM GMT

Some great images Kev, a lovely sequence of shots to illustrate your posts...well done that man 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 22-May-15 03:44 AM GMT

Thanks Trevor. Mrs L takes the credit for that photo. Relaxing in the garden while her old man works. 😊

Wurzel & Bill; Thanks for your comments. As my favourite butterfly, those OT will be one of the highlights of my year without a doubt. First time I've ever observed them mating.

Buggy; Thanks too. I'm contemplating a trip to Bison Hill on Saturday, myself. We may well see each other.

Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Pauline, 22-May-15 11:44 PM GMT

Just catching up on your diary Kev and they are smashing shots of the OT's 🍷

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 23-May-15 02:18 AM GMT

Thanks Pauline. Every once in a while, my limited skills with a camera bear fruit 😊

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 25-May-15 03:06 AM GMT

A couple more Orange Tip photos from my local patch today.



Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 27-May-15 04:04 PM GMT

26.5.15

After a frustrating week of rationed sunshine, it was nice to take advantage of brighter conditions.

Three more firsts for 2015 in the shape of Common Blue, Brown Argus and Small Heath, together with good numbers of Brimstone and Orange Tip.

Brown Argus



Female Common Blue



Male Common Blue



and finally a caterpillar, which I think may be a Mottled Umber Moth (please correct me if I'm wrong)



Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Willow, 27-May-15 10:42 PM GMT

Frustration over Kev, you finally nailed some nice captures in the sunshine 😊 lets hope it lasts and you get lots more 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 07-Jun-15 03:08 AM GMT

#### Strumpshaw Fen 6th June 2015

A cracking day spent looking for Swallowtails. We were lucky enough to see two. Also seen was a single Painted Lady, Brimstone and Common Blue (M/F). However the most numerous species for the day was Red Admiral, which seemed to be everywhere. Being vary sparse for me this year, they were nice to see in good numbers.

Other notable sightings were Black Tailed Skimmers, Four Spotted Chasers and the following Damselflies (Azure, Blue Tailed, Variable, Large Red)

For any visitors to Strumpshaw Fen, the best locations are the herbaceous garden by the entrance hide (where the below photos were taken). The other notable locations are Dr Georges Cottage which is located down a track approx 100 yards before the car park. There is a welcoming sign from him inviting people to walk up and down his border and photograph any Swallowtails that settle (as they frequently do when conditions are right). Opposite the cottage and across the railway line, is the best other part of the fen to observe Swallowtails, being richer in Milk Parsley.

Swallowtails at Strumpshaw Fen







First Painted Lady of the year



Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Hoggers, 07-Jun-15 03:34 AM GMT

Congratulations on seeing the Swallowtails, Kev : gorgeous photos!

I went last year and spent a memorable afternoon in the good doctor's garden

Best wishes

Hoggers

**Re: Kev Ling**

by bugboy, 07-Jun-15 03:58 AM GMT

Well Kev, you maybe a bit jealous of my list of species this year but I can guarantee I'm more jealous of your Swallowtail pictures 🍷🍷🍷🍷!

### Re: Kev Ling

by trevor, 07-Jun-15 04:34 AM GMT

Hi Kev,  
You've hit the jackpot , i've closely observed a reared Continental Swallowtail ,but you have seen the real thing, and taken some cracking ( as Wurzel would say ) images. Must go myself one day.

All the best,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Kev Ling

by Pauline, 07-Jun-15 02:43 PM GMT

You have really done those Swallowtails justice Kev. Beautiful shots of a beautiful butterfly which I would love to be able to see for myself one day 🍷

### Re: Kev Ling

by Jack Harrison, 07-Jun-15 04:12 PM GMT

Opposite the cottage and across the railway line, is the best other part of the fen to observe Swallowtails, being richer in Milk Parsley.

You used to be able to cross the railway line at that point but the last time I was there (2012) the access via that particular level crossing was blocked.  
Is the fen accessible again from there or does it involve the walk from the visitor centre *within* the boundary of the fen?

Jack

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 07-Jun-15 05:29 PM GMT

Hoggers/Bugboy/Trevor/Pauline 🍷 Thank you all for your compliments. Appreciated as always. I've been reading your diaries and envious of the species being seen by you in the West, so it was nice to have a close encounter with such an exotic species.

Jack: The access to the fen from the cottage crossing is fully open once again with no access issues. That's where we saw a second example yesterday. It landed on the path in front of us. I managed a quick photo of it as it settled and took off (sorry quality not that great).





Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Pete Eeles, 07-Jun-15 06:26 PM GMT

Congrats on the Swallowtails, Kev! It's a long way for many people – but always worth the trip 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Kev Ling

by Jack Harrison, 07-Jun-15 06:54 PM GMT

It's a long way for many people

They were only 20 kilometres/12 miles away from where I grew up (or 12.4274238 miles as Google stupidly insists on converting 2 significant figures to 9 sig.figs).

But I didn't see my first Swallowtail until 1950 when I was 11 years old and Dad had got his first car.

Jack

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 08-Jun-15 05:42 AM GMT

Beautiful photos Kevling 😊😊👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by keving, 09-Jun-15 01:46 AM GMT

Pete/Wurzel. Thanks for your kind comments 😊

Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Willow, 09-Jun-15 11:36 PM GMT

I'm envious Kev 🍷 I've yet to make the long journey from South Wales to see **Swallowtail** – and those photos are pretty nifty too 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

### Re: Kev Ling

by trevor, 10-Jun-15 02:36 AM GMT

Hi Kev,  
Good luck finding the Heath Fritillary. I don't know the Essex site, but there are plenty at East Blean.

Good luck,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Kev Ling

by keving, 28-Jun-15 03:27 AM GMT

#### Hadleigh Country Park, Essex

A trip south of the Suffolk border today to this excellent site near Southend. My target species was White Letter Hairstreak, of which I saw three. Two in the canopies and one that landed right next to me and set off again before I could get my camera focused 🙄

Soon made up for this though with a small number of Marbled Whites.



Surprisingly the most numerous species seen today (if you discount the Meadow Brown & Skippers) was the Holly Blue (30+). I had never seen this number in such a close proximity before.

A total of thirteen species seen in addition to some other insects. A selection of my other sightings follows;

Comma at rest



Male Broad Bodied Chaser



Female Ruddy Darter



Mating Common Blue Damselfly



Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 02-Jul-15 04:59 AM GMT

A new job has me based next to some great Heathland near Ipswich and occasional lunch time walks are being rewarded this week with a good number of Butterflies and Moths.

Armed only with my mobile, I've not been too successful with images, but I did see this nice cluster of Six Spot Burnets (10 on a single flower head).



And a caterpillar / pupa duo of the same moth



On the look out for Silver Studded Blues at this site, but none seen yet. But also present have been Painted Lady, Small Copper and as many skippers as you can shake a stick at. I think the skippers are a very underrated Butterfly and I just love seeing them in such numbers (a true arrival of summer).



Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Wurzel, 02-Jul-15 06:18 AM GMT

I agree with you Kev, it's not a proper summer until you're accompanied on a walk by a multitude of minuscule ginger buzzing bullets 😊

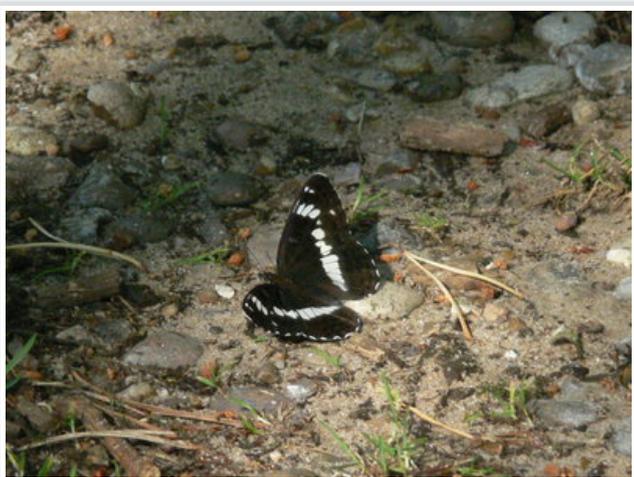
Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 05-Jul-15 11:57 PM GMT

A family camping trip this weekend to Tangham Forest, Suffolk and with beautiful weather, I saw my first White Admiral of the year.





Meadow Browns and Skippers also present in the hundreds 😊

Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Pauline, 06-Jul-15 01:50 AM GMT

Typical WA poses Kev - very well captured, well done 😊

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 06-Jul-15 04:00 AM GMT

Thanks Pauline, I enjoyed seeing the underside as it perched on the leaf above me.

Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Wurzel, 06-Jul-15 06:40 AM GMT

There must have been something in the air today as I to saw my first WA's of 2015, but I didn't get a nice underwing shot like that Kev 🍷 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Goldie M, 06-Jul-15 10:01 PM GMT

Nive shots of the WA Kev wish they came North Goldie 😊

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevling, 07-Jul-15 04:22 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel; A combination of nice evening sunshine and happening to be in right place at the right time 😊

Cheers Goldie; I'll gladly swap a WA for one of your dancing Large Heaths 😊

Regards Kev

## Re: Kev Ling

by kevling, 19-Jul-15 04:40 PM GMT

### 18th July 2015 – Bonny Wood, Suffolk

A visit was paid to this location with the target species being Purple Emperor. A small colony has recently been discovered here thanks in main to a report from the 'Purple Project', a study by Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton detailing suitable woodlands in Suffolk that could support non – introduced populations. Bonny Wood was identified as a very good habitat with an abundance of Sallow.

So with my wife, daughter, camera and lots of optimism in tow, we set out to enjoy this wonderful woodland.

And what a place it is. Operated by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, it is home to many species of Butterfly (14 seen in total during our visit). It is also a great habitat for Dragonflies too.

A total of five Emperors had been seen during the preceding week by visitors and just as we were leaving, we were rewarded with a single example that was very active. After buzzing right in front of my face, it flew into a low canopy, before coming briefly to rest on the path some yards away. Such was it's active nature, I managed only a couple of poor record shots, but it was still a great experience to get an encounter with HIM in Suffolk (non-introduced).





Other highlights from our visit were three Purple Hairstreaks, including this very obliging example.



A healthy number of Silver Washed Fritillaries were also present with (15+ seen)





White Admiral were seen in double figures too



I'll finish with a small selection of other images taken.

Small Skippers and friends



Comma at rest



Southern Hawker



Common Darter



A cracking morning with butterfly numbers in their hundreds.

Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 28-Sep-15 03:42 AM GMT

With a nice splash of early Autumn sunshine, there is still activity to be had, as demonstrated by this pair of Large Whites in my garden. Unfortunately the small number of larvae that were feeding on my Nasturtiums have since disappeared, presumably predated.



Also seen this weekend was this Small Copper, along with a Small Heath and Red Admiral.



Lets hope there are still a few more days to enjoy them before the long winter lull ahead.

Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 28-Sep-15 06:25 AM GMT

You're doing well to see Small Coppers - I thought all of them had moved to Hoggers Territory 😊 Seriously I don't think I've seen a third brood yet 😊



Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by Goldie M, 01-Oct-15 12:48 AM GMT

Lucky you Kev, I'm afraid we've not done very well in the North for Coppers this year, I saw some in May and that was the last time I saw them, even went back to the same spot twice ( Southport Dunes) no luck. Goldie 😞

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 04-Oct-15 09:38 PM GMT

With the UK butterfly season drawing to a close, I've been reflecting on my summer trip to the South of France. Through a combination of butterfly guides and expert opinion from fellow UK butterflyers, I have now identified a total of 50+ species seen on what was not a dedicated butterfly holiday.

With the exception of a whole day in the Parc Du Mecantour, the rest were the result of frequent diversions from family activities (thanks guys 😊). To give those that have not visited this area an idea of what you can see, I include a list of my sightings. There were a good number of others that went unidentified though, mainly *erebia* and *hesperiidae* But I'm very happy with what I did observe.

#### Hesperiidae

Dingy Skipper, Large Skipper, Lulworth Skipper, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Carline Skipper, Mallow Skipper, Oberthurs Skipper.

#### Papilionidae

Apollo, Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail

#### Pieridae

Cleopatra , Clouded Yellow , Large White , Small White

*Lycaenidae*

Purple Hairstreak, White Letter Hairstreak, Scarce Copper, Sooty Copper, Geranium Bronze, Long Tailed Blue, Lang's Short Tailed Blue, Meleager's Blue, Brown Argus, Holly Blue, Damon Blue, Common Blue, Eschers Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Provence Chalkhill Blue, Adonis Blue

*Nymphalidae*

Southern White Admiral, Comma, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Two Tailed Pasha

*Heliconinae*

Marbled Fritillary, Weavers Fritillary, Spotted Fritillary, Silver Washed Fritillary

*Satyrinae*

Speckled Wood, Wall Brown, Striped Grayling, Rock Grayling, Great Banded Grayling, Dryad, Great Sooty Satyr, Southern Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small Heath

*Erebia*

Large Ringlet

*Melanargia*

Marbled White

Western Marbled White

Here is a small collection of my personal favourite photographs from the trip.

Scarce Swallowtail



Rock Grayling



White Letter Hairstreak



Sooty Copper



Adonis & Long Tailed Blue



Scarce Copper



Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper



Spotted Fritillary



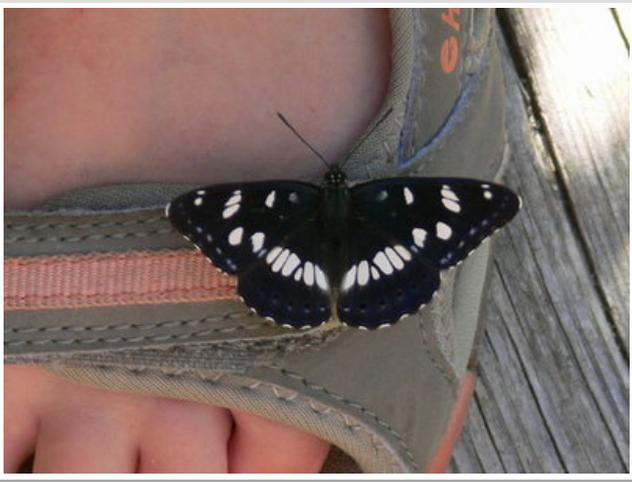


Striped Graylings



Southern White Admiral





Lang's Short Tailed Blue



Geranium Bronze



Now to spend the long winter months, dreaming about what next summer could bring.

Kind Regards  
Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by David M, 04-Oct-15 09:51 PM GMT

Nice tally, Kev, especially given that you had other 'duties' most of the time.

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Wurzel, 05-Oct-15 04:46 AM GMT

I am very envious of your tally Kev especially as it contained 26 species I've not seen before 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 07-Oct-15 01:50 AM GMT

Thanks David; Yes I'm very happy with the number I saw. A return to the Parc Du Mecantour is a must I think.

Thanks Wurzel; I'm normally envious of your posts and all the Fritillaries you see in the west country. Glad to get my own back 😊

Regards Kev